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**LACK OF HOME PRIDE.**

Mr. F. C. Reed, formerly fish commissioner of the state of Oregon, has taken it upon himself to ventilate through the columns of the Portland Oregonian the situation with reference to salmon fishing. Because of the backward season, and out of a desire to allow fishermen and packers to reap the harvest that is rightfully theirs, it was mutually agreed that the closed season law should be disregarded and that operations would be permitted for a few days. The condition this season demonstrated that the law was standing in the way of the prosperity of the people, and its terms were therefore mildly violated.

Mr. Reed's letter comes with mighty poor grace. He was once fish commissioner, and it has been pretty generally agreed that his conduct of the office was not unusually successful. He charges in the Oregonian that C. W. Fulton "legislated him out of office," which leads to the logical conclusion that, out of a spirit to even accounts with Mr. Fulton, Mr. Reed was prompted to write his letter. When he determined to give publicity to his protest against violation of the law will result in ruination of the patriotic desire to protect the interests of the fisheries, else he would have sent his letter to one of the Astoria papers. Mr. Reed knows just how the Oregonian feels toward Astoria, and he knew his knock would be gleefully produced by the Portland paper. Apparently, then, Mr. Reed was moved by a spirit of malice. He threatened the state board that he would send a letter to the Oregonian, and, the board declining to be bluffed, Mr. Reed's communication appears.

The salmon fishing law ought to be lived up to just so long as it reasonably regulates the industry. When Mr. Reed was fish commissioner he depended upon nature for his supply of fish. Since then, however, we have been able to depend upon our propagation plants. When Mr. Reed was fish commissioner there was need for rigid enforcement of the law, but this season, fortunately for the salmon industry, it is quite within the bounds of reason that operations should have been permitted for a few days in excess of the time stipulated by statute for the close of the season.

Astoria is largely dependent upon the salmon industry. The Oregonian's assertion that the present violation of the law will result in ruination of the industry is, like everything else the Oregonian has to say concerning Astoria, the sheerest rot. The people of Astoria know upon what side their bread is buttered, and may be depended upon to protect the industry which sustains business in their city. This year the salmon season was backward. Female fish caught yesterday were far from maturity, and the quality of the fish now being taken is equal to that of salmon usually caught in July. Nature has delayed the fish; the season is peculiarly backward.

For what purpose, let us ask, was the fishing law framed? Surely not with the idea in view of depriving the people of the state of the benefits that accrue from the industry. Then, if the salmon season proved to be backward, what moral offense has been committed because the fishermen have continued operations a few days longer than the time fixed for suspension? The fish now being caught usually come into the river in July. Nature intended these fish for the use of man. Application of the law would defeat nature's aim, and the state board has accepted the reasonable view of the matter by ignoring the protest of the former fish commissioner, whose lack of home pride is lamentable.

**PROBLEMS OF AN EMPIRE.**

The final report of the census of 1901 of the British empire has just been issued. Not merely to the student of modern politics, who watches the progress of nations and speculates upon the marvelous potentialities of colonization and national solidarity, nor to the directing spirit of racial intercourse, but to the statesmen of England this report, staggering in its array of facts and figures, presents problems of tremendous moment, says the Call.

Great Britain has grown until now she controls one-fifth of the area of the globe and includes in her dominion four hundred million people. How to preserve this splendid empire composed of innumerable races, inspired by diverse traditions, and impelled by antagonistic ideals, may well be considered one

of the great problems of statecraft. How to govern these peoples to a respect for the mother country, which many of them never knew and most of them do not understand, may well appall the imagination of the most sanguine. How to impel obedience to measures in which the preponderating weight of the empire has no vital interest and how to enlist support in campaigns in which it has no selfish concern are tasks that may well win the admiration of nations less unwieldy and more compact.

When England first dared to suggest, one hundred and fifty years ago, the idea of a census of the British empire, the proposal met with a storm of parliamentary protest, based upon a fear of conditions far different and infinitely less serious than those that now face the empire. The scheme of an imperial census was denounced as presumptuous, as subversive of liberty, as a weapon to inspire new governmental rapacity, oppression, taxation and increased conscription. Further than this, the plan was condemned as a foolish measure, which would expose to other nations the weakness of the British empire.

Now when Great Britain dazzles the world with an empire of twelve million square miles and more than four hundred millions of people the fear is not one of weakness in relation to others, but of a crumbling and disintegration from within. Some idea of the gravity of this fear may be obtained when we realize that of the empire there are four million square miles in North, Central and South America, three million square miles in Australasia, three million square miles in Africa, more than one and three-quarter million square miles in Asia and only 125,995 square miles in the United Kingdom.

Where the consent of the governed and not the command of the king dictates the progress of the empire the serious duty of English statesmen cannot be underestimated nor their difficulties misunderstood. A few pertinent facts in the census report just issued will show the character of these duties and difficulties in the marvelous development of the empire almost within the period of a generation. In 1861 the population of the British empire was one hundred and seventy-five millions; in 1871 it was two hundred and thirty-five millions; in 1881 it was three hundred and ten millions; in 1891 it was three hundred and fifty-one millions. With more than this vast horde of many races and varied civilizations London must deal carefully, diplomatically and triumphantly.

**POSSIBILITIES OF MODERN WARFARE.**

With the expiration of the five years limit of the prohibition of the use of aerial warships for the express purpose of dropping high explosives upon an enemy beneath, which was provided for by The Hague tribunal, at the instance, by the way, of an American military officer, new and dread possibilities are opened in modern warfare, and the world is watching, as with bated breath, to see what will come next, says the Standard Union. While the employment of these possible means of warfare have been in abeyance, the nations have been diligently, if quietly and unostentatiously, experimenting with them. Attention is, of course, first of all directed to the belligerents in the far east, where a peculiarly interesting situation exists for the proving of the efficacy of this sort of warfare. Port Arthur has thus far resisted all the efforts of the Japanese to take it, by storm or by siege; it has proved impregnable, in fact, to any existing methods of capture. In case aerial warfare should be available now, of course the victory will rest with the power that gets in its work first, for no second discharge of the new explosives will be needed, either for fort or fleet, according to the testimony of experts. It is argued that a fort would have a better chance to save itself by destroying the destroyer than would a ship at sea, as it is not easy to get the range of an object high in the air from a deck, while it is comparatively easy to do so from the land, in the very nature of things. If the Japanese, acknowledged to be a wonderfully alert people, as well as a secretive one as to their plans and resources, have aerial ships ready (and they are known to have been experimenting with them, as have also the Russians), and can get them to Port Arthur before the Russians can get their flying devils there, the story will be quickly told. And the same is true as to the Russians.

But the question is, has either nation so far perfected aerial navigation as to make this probable? The chances are that they have not, and that we will be spared for a time, at least, this additional horror to war. In the mean time some new agreement between the nations will probably be made in regard to these new methods of wholesale murder.

Ernest Crosby prophesies that the universal adoption of a vegetarian diet will abolish vice. Come to think of it, it would be rather surprising to see a man running a faro bank or a burglary business on a string of beans and cracked wheat, but there are men who would be perfectly willing to live on vegetable food in the form of rye for the rest of their lives, if they could.

Senator Elkins says that West Virginia is wedded to protection. He should look thoughtfully at Henry G. Davis and reflect that fathers-in-law have been known to break up families.

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